

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 OES-03 EPA-01

CEQ-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /044 W

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R 101757Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7415

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. AFP, CITING SOURCE AT STATE SECRETARIAT OF TRANSPORTATION, REPORTS STATE SECRETARY MARCEL CAVAILLE WILL MEET WITH WEDGEWOOD BENN IN LONDON AT GOF REQUEST MARCH 25 TO DISCUSS CONCORDE QUESTIONS. ANNOUNCED AIM IS TO REVIEW CONCORDE PROGRAM, NOTABLY MANUFACTURING SCHEDULE, TEST FLIGHTS, CERTIFICATION, AND ENTRY INTO SERVICE.

2. AFP CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON FILED STORY MARCH 6 WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED THUS FAR BY FRENCH PRESS AND WHICH COMMENTED ON "VERY RESTRICTIVE" SST NOISE RULE PROPOSED BY EPA WHICH WAS SEEN AS JEOPARDIZING FUTURE OF CONCORDE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM BEYOND SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT NOW PROGRAMMED. THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO PUBLIC OR OFFICIAL REACTION ON THIS ASPECT OF THE QUESTION (PARA 4 PARIS 5702).

3. AFP REPORT MENTIONED PARA 1 ABOVE RE UPCOMING
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FRANCO-BRITISH MEETING CONCLUDES BY RECALLING THAT AT

LAST MINISTERIAL MEETING GOF HAD PROPOSED EXTENDING CONCORDE PRODUCTION LINE TO NINETEEN AIRCRAFT AND PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL FUEL TANKS TO GIVE SLIGHTLY EXTENDED RANGE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER REVIVED MENTION OF THIS POSSIBILITY IS MERELY FILLER IN AFP STORY OR TIP-OFF TO PROPOSAL THAT GOF MIGHT BE ABOUT TO REVIVE WITH UK. IN ANY EVENT, THIS QUESTION OF EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CONCORDES WILL ALMOST INEVITABLY COME IN FOR ATTENTION, IF ONLY AS HYPOTHETICAL CASE, WHEN FRENCH AND BRITISH MINISTERS COMPARE NOTES ON IMPLICATIONS OF EIS AND PROPOSED NOISE RULE AND HOW THEY WILL AFFECT THE OPTIONS OPEN TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. THEREAFTER, GOF MIGHT JOIN THE BRITISH IN PRIVATELY EXPRESSING TO US THEIR CONCERN OVER THE PRODUCTION CUT-OFF IMPLICIT IN THE PROPOSED SST NOISE RULE, AND THE SUBJECT MIGHT ALSO COME IN FOR MORE ACTIVE DEBATE IN THE PRESS. IN EITHER CASE, WE RISK BEING EXPOSED TO CRITICISM FOR SEEMING TO WANT TO INFLUENCE VIABILITY OF PRODUCTION OF CONCORDES BEYOND SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT, HOWEVER REMOTE EXPANDED PRODUCTION RUN MAY STILL BE TODAY, AND ANY PUBLIC DEBATE THAT MIGHT ENSUE IN THE FRENCH PRESS MIGHT WELL CONVENIENTLY OVERLOOK OUR GENEROSITY IN PROPOSING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR WHAT REALLY COUNTS, NAMELY, THE ONLY CONCORDES THAT ARE NOW BEING BUILT. HOWEVER, AS REGARDS OUR SUSCEPTIBILITY TO GOF OR UK PRESSURE, WE NOTE FROM STATE 45896 THAT DIE APPEARS TO BE CAST NOW THAT FAA GOES INTO PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT ON EIS AND ALSO INTO RULEMAKING ON SST NOISE LEVEL.
RUSH

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